

Adlyn Loewenthal, MSW HB 5326

As a social worker and as the wife of a physician, I am familiar with many stories of people ending their days in pain and discomfort, pleading for assistance to quicken their approaching death. As a daughter I watched my mother painfully die of cancer, too sick to swallow the saved narcotics with which she had intended to hasten her demise. As an adult, entrusted with the care of my body, and competent to make health care decisions, I am angered at the knowledge that, in the face of a terminal illness, I would be unable to choose a dignified, thoughtful exit from this life.

Examination of the implementation of aid in dying legislation in Oregon, with its medical and psychological safeguards, shows there to have been no abuse of this right. And whether used or not, it clearly provides peace of mind for those nearing the end of their days.

Connecticut should not be afraid to stand for the dignity of the individual to the very end. I urge you to enact HB 5326.

Sincerely,

Adlyn Loewenthal, MSW